

# NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

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MARYVILLE, MISSOURI

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# FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN

Northwest students Edidong Idong-Bassey and Uhman Moltok stand outside Wells Hall. Idong-Bassey and Moltok are international students from Nigeria fighting for the movement #EndSARS.

## Nigerian students speak up against SARS

KENDRICK CALFEE  
News Editor | calfee\_kc

Justice is a criminal getting a deserving sentence. Justice is releasing innocent people from captivity. Justice is feeling safe in your own home. And for some crying out to the world in peaceful anguish, justice is simply — as two students 6,508 miles away from home put it — being recognized as people again.

Northwest's 18 Nigerian students watched from afar as widespread protests ensued in their home country against an invasive, brutal police force. The Special Anti-Robbery Squad, a division of Nigeria's police which has been somewhat disbanded, faced accusations

of severe brutality against citizens they are supposed to serve.

One protest against SARS eventually led to the Nigerian military killing at least 12 citizens and leaving hundreds severely injured after bullets were fired into crowds.

Two Northwest students who experienced harassment firsthand, Edidong Idong-Bassey and Uhman Moltok, said the time for an influential movement garnering international protests against SARS is long overdue.

"I think everyone has been harassed or stopped by SARS in Nigeria. It's just a common thing," Idong-Bassey said.

The movement, known as #EndSARS on social media, is supported worldwide, with leaders of nations

and celebrities alike speaking out against violence by SARS. These acts of violence include accusations of robbery and kidnapping, prolonged detainment and terrorizing the country's youth population.

Idong-Bassey, of Lagos, Nigeria, and Moltok, of Abuja, Nigeria, are part of a generation advocating for systemic change in their nation's government. They share a prospering friendship that began at Northwest's freshman orientation, which helped guide the international juniors through a semester when tension is rising at home.

While their roles in government protests are limited to social media engagement and outreach for now, they said they are honored to take part in the ongoing battle for end-

“

In the end, they're just terrorists. They don't actually value the lives of Nigerian citizens. People can be stopped at any time; their properties can be taken, and they can be detained as long as the police want."

-EDIDONG IDONG-BASSEY

## Parson sets new rules for quarantines

ANDREW WEGLEY  
Managing Editor | @andrewwegley

While his state has averaged more than 4,000 new COVID-19 cases per day over the last week, Missouri Gov. Mike Parson released looser quarantine guidelines Nov. 12 for K-12 students and teachers in the state, allowing close contacts to forego previously mandatory quarantines in some situations.

The new guidelines, which Parson announced in a press conference and a series of tweets one day after visiting Northwest's campus for a Veterans Day celebration, eliminate quarantine requirements for close contacts as long as both parties were engaged in "proper mask wearing" at the time of exposure, according to the governor's announcement. The update in procedure only applies to schools where masks are required.

Parson and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services are requiring close contacts to self-monitor for symptoms, while close contacts at schools will still be forced to quarantine for 14 days — an incentive, the governor noted in a tweet,

that "will lead to more schools encouraging proper mask usage."

"Schools that are consistently implementing COVID-19 mitigation strategies remain among the safest places for our students," Parson said in a press release. "We believe this change will lead to more schools encouraging proper mask usage, helping to further protect students and educators from the spread of the virus."

Standing alongside Parson at his Nov. 12 announcement was Rachel Orscheln, a doctor and an associate professor of pediatrics in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Washington University and St. Louis Children's Hospital, who provided the weight of a medical expert standing behind the governor's update that directly contradicts Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines on contact tracing. The CDC recommends the determination of close contacts "should generally be made irrespective of whether the contact was wearing respiratory PPE."

SEE PARSON | A4



ANDREW WEGLEY | NW MISSOURIAN

A Northwest graduate-to-be attends the University's delayed commencement ceremony at Bearcat Stadium Aug. 8. The University canceled its winter commencement ceremonies, scheduled for Nov. 20-22, a week before they were set to take place.

Winter  
grads  
will wait  
to walk

KENDRICK CALFEE  
News Editor | calfee\_kc

The University has postponed its winter commencement ceremonies, originally set for Nov. 20-22, due to concerns with rising positive cases of COVID-19 and student quarantines.

Graduating students will receive additional details in their Northwest emails, a University press release said, and will have the option to attend Spring commencement ceremonies scheduled for May 7-8, 2021.

Close to 700 students will grad-

uate this winter, including all degree types: bachelor's, master's and certificates. Of those nearly 700, a total of 217 seniors registered to participate in one of five commencement ceremonies: 3 p.m. or 7 p.m. Nov. 20, 9 a.m. or 1 p.m. Nov. 21 and 1 p.m. Nov. 22.

Each graduate would have been allowed up to two guests in order to allow for COVID-19 mitigation practices, since an additional 30 to 40 Northwest employees would have been staffing the various ceremonies.

SEE GRAD | A4

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# Final show addresses social issues

ABBEY HUGO  
Copy Editor | @abbey\_hugo

A nameless town. An average party. An ordinary girl. All based on a real town, following a real party, involving a real girl and all-too-real events.

Theatre Northwest's last play of the semester Nov. 12-15 was Naomi Iizuka's "Good Kids." It recounts the events leading up to and immediately following the rape of a high school girl while she was incapacitated after a party. While the play itself is fiction, it was inspired by the true events of a 2012 high school rape case in Steubenville, Ohio.

With the 10-person audience no more than 10 feet away as these events unfolded in front of them, Theatre Northwest brought the audience face to face with the startling reality of this issue. That, director Katheryn Bilbo said, was exactly the intent.

"Theatre often reflects real life back to the audience, and sometimes what we see in the mirror is not pretty," Bilbo said in an email.

Chloe, the main character, attends a party with her cousin and good friend. She ends up leaving the party with a group of men she does not know and wakes up, undressed, in a basement she doesn't recognize. It's only after seeing a video and tweets relaying the events of the night before that she realizes what happened.

According to statistics presented in the director's note and provided by the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, 13% of college students will endure something similar and experience sexual assault or rape.

Only five out of every 1,000 perpetrators will go to prison. Many sexual crimes go unreported due to the culture surrounding victims of rape.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TODD WEDDEL

Chloe, played by senior Taylor Holley, discusses going to a party with her friend Daphne, played by junior Katie Waterman, during Theatre Northwest's production of "Good Kids" Nov. 12-15.

"The often judgmental societal attitude toward assault victims is a problem we have yet to resolve. Rape culture is very real," Bilbo said. "Sometimes it is simply a subconscious bias we pick up from our peers, our parents, the media, film, television, political leaders, etc. A charge against people we like, such as the kids with 'promising futures' in the play, inspires anger in many people, rather than sympathy for the victim."

Much of the town within the play comes to the defense of the boys, who happen to be stars of the high school football team, claiming "boys will be boys." Chloe, on

the other hand, faces comments of victim shaming: "They said I wanted it. They said I asked for it. They said I had it coming."

The forceful backlash Chloe receives is almost as traumatic as the incident itself," Bilbo said. "It can be uncomfortable to watch the cruelty and insensitivity with which other characters react, and for actors, portraying people engaged in ugly behavior can be just as difficult."

There were about as many characters in the play as there were allowed in the crowd due to COVID-19 mitigation measures. So when characters made these hurt-

ful comments, it was as if they were directly addressing the crowd. And at times, they were.

The narrator regularly acknowledged the audience. Many times, the whole cast would pause, face the audience and have dialogue about a particular phrase, whether it was defining "hook-up," debating what constitutes "rape" or discussing the endless possibilities a party presents.

For the actors, it was an even more immersive experience.

"I knew that this was a topic that might upset not only audiences, but also my actors," Bilbo said. "Therefore, long before auditions, I

encouraged our theatre students to read the play to be not only aware of the sensitive subject matter, but also how it is portrayed; as there is very strong language and brutal name-calling."

Bilbo worried the play might bring back trauma for any actors that may have experienced sexual assault, predatory behavior or online bullying. Throughout the process, she would check in with actors one-on-one. A website was also created and made available to the cast that included various support resources and phone numbers in case they were uncomfortable talking to Bilbo directly.

Junior speech and theater education major Katie Waterman, who played Chloe's friend, Daphne, said having a cast of positive-minded actors helped make the emotionally taxing experience more bearable.

"Especially having a cast like this, that everyone's so friendly, having that kind of happy environment is such a good thing to have with such an intense show," Waterman said.

The cast was given 30 minutes before each show to mentally prepare and get into character.

The cast was also encouraged to understand their characters' motives and backstories. Actors constructed backstories based on anything that was said by or about their character in the script.

Junior theater performance major Drew Walker played Landon, a football player who witnessed and tweeted about the sexual assault. Walker shared how he established his character's backstory and how he was able to mentally separate himself from the things his character did and said.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
[NWMISSOURINEWS.COM](http://NWMISSOURINEWS.COM)

## Sidewalks, Tower Suites see improvements

ASHLEY LOSSON  
News Reporter | @Ashley\_Losson

Over the past few weeks, multiple construction zones could be spotted around Northwest's campus as the fall semester nears an end.

Current projects consist of sidewalk repairs and those that take more time, like creating better airflow, heating and cooling in Tower Suites. After crews finish their work, Tower Suites residents should see increased airflow throughout the building, just in time for winter.

"One of those concerns whenever you build facilities is making sure you have a good amount of airflow that keeps things like mold and

other concerns from happening," said Mike Miller, Northwest's coordinator of residential education.

Miller said since the dorm was built in 2003, stagnant air has been a concern. Since then, the University has added attic fans to reduce this concern and are hoping this will be the final project for enhancing the building's airflow.

These improvements were supposed to be completed over the summer, but because of issues surrounding COVID-19, they got moved to September and are projected to be completed before students return for the upcoming spring semester.

Miller said Northwest didn't

want to do the construction while students are living in the dorms, but it is something that needs to be done for their safety.

"We had a meeting on Sept. 4 before they started working to set some of those ground rules to maintain student sanity while it's happening," Miller said.

Some of these guidelines for the construction workers include following the residential quiet hours from 10 p.m. to 9 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and midnight to 9 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Additionally, the crews are saving their major work for winter break.

"We're allowing them to do prep work until then," Miller said.

Major construction work will begin once students leave campus. The construction workers will have to go into every room to make connections with the current airflow system and the new one.

Miller said this had to wait until students were out of the dorms because of how invasive the process is.

It is not uncommon for faculty to enter students' rooms during long breaks like winter break because this is when maintenance comes in to check fire alarms and



Northwest Board of Regents approved a plan to update the mechanical system in Tower Suites at a cost under \$1.4 million. The University awarded a contract for the work to Lee Grover Construction, which was the lower bidder for the project.

pest control units complete routine work.

To prepare for this, students should take anything of value back home with them during winter break if they are afraid somebody will interfere with it.

"They are kept an eye on," Mill-

er said. "It's not like we just let anybody wander through the buildings."

Miller said everybody who enters residence hall rooms are certified employees for Capital Programs, the company that every construction project on campus goes through.

Tower Suites Hall Director Nicole Canning said in an email sent out to all residents that for their safety, blinds and windows should be closed while the construction is going on.

Students who have any issues with noise should go to their resident assistant, and the problem will be dealt with from there.

Outside of the residence halls, minor construction was completed Nov. 16 on campus in order to fix the cracks in sidewalks.

"We felt the deteriorated conditions were important to be addressed this fall before snow and ice began to accumulate," Director of Capital Programs Scott Kuhlemeyer said in an email.

Kuhlemeyer said the ice that comes with the winter weather would only make the sidewalk conditions worse and they want to ensure students are safe walking around campus.

Kuhlemeyer also added that there are numerous projects about to begin, including repairs along a small portion of the Joyce and Harvey White International Plaza, classroom upgrades at the Phyllis and Richard Leet Center for Children and Families and acoustical upgrades at the Olive DeLuce Fine Arts Building.

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# County keeps setting COVID records

ANDREW WEGLEY  
Managing Editor | @andrewwegley

A little less than a month ago, as Nodaway County watched the early going of a third surge of COVID-19 cases in the county, Tom Patterson was optimistic.

The Nodaway County Health Department administrator had weathered the storm in late August, when the arrival of Northwest students in Maryville brought with it an intense spike of new cases. Patterson had overseen the ensuing decrease in cases, too, watching the active case count in the county fall from a peak of 257 Sept. 3 to a low of 50 active cases three weeks later.

The mask mandate had worked. The virus was nearly eradicated on Northwest's campus, with active cases there dipping into single digits in early October. So when cases started to rise again, slowly but consistently, throughout the county in early October, Patterson was hopeful — even confident — in the middle part of last month.

Things wouldn't get as bad as they did in August, he said Oct. 21, when Nodaway County's active case count was 167, still 90 cases short of the county's peak caseload

at the time.

"It's not looking better, but we're not compounding, so it's not doom and gloom either," Patterson said then. "I think we may stay here a little bit, but I really don't know. It's a total guess."

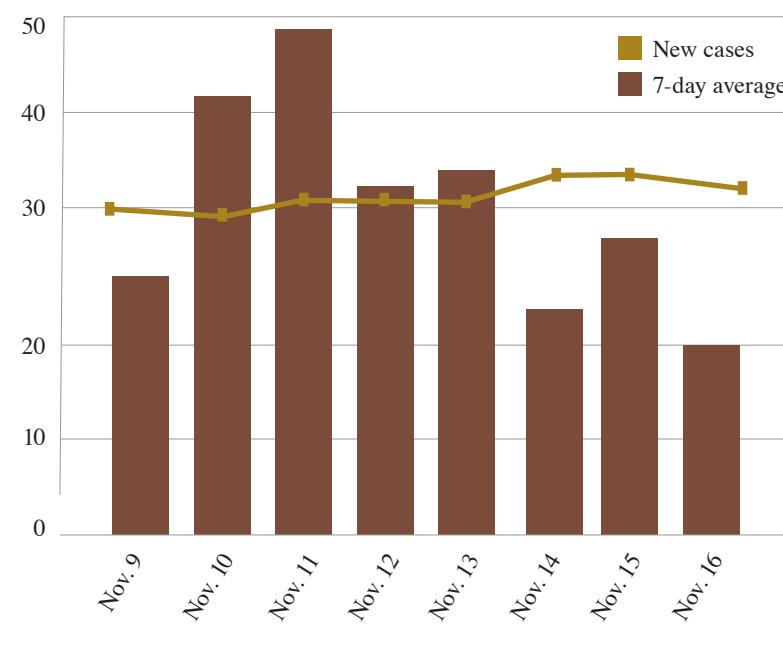
Now, nearly a month after Patterson projected the rate of COVID-19 cases in the county to remain largely the same, the new and active case counts have each spiked. The state of the coronavirus in Nodaway County did not get as bad as it did in late August. It got worse.

"The whole state is red," Patterson said in a phone call with the Missourian Nov. 18. "We're just kind of enveloped in it everywhere. All our surrounding areas are seeing more cases; we're seeing more cases. Everybody's in a spike."

After reaching a new peak of 365 Nov. 14, the active case count in Nodaway County dropped slightly to 354 Nov. 16 — the latest available data at the time of publication. Both figures are nearly 100 cases higher than the once-record case count Nodaway County set in early September.

The rate of new daily COVID-19 cases in the county has spiked with the active case load. After steadily

## NEW DAILY COVID-19 CASES IN THE COUNTY



increasing from single digits to the low 20s throughout October, the seven-day rolling average for new virus cases in Nodaway County surpassed 30 for the first time Nov. 11. The seven-day average sat at 32.29 Nov. 16 after the health department reported 20 new virus cases. Thirteen county residents are currently

hospitalized with COVID-19. Nov. 6, before subsiding again. As of Nov. 16, the University's active case count was 68.

The latest wave of COVID-19 cases in the county has largely affected a wider demographic than it did when students returned for in-person and hybrid classes at Northwest in mid-August. At the height of Northwest's infection rate in the semester's early going, University staff and students accounted for close to 70% of the county's active cases. Now, that figure sits at 19.21%, with the Northwest population accounting for 39.79% of total cases in the county since April, when the virus first arrived.

Patterson attributed the shifting demographics — and much of the county's growing caseload as a whole — to virus transmission in social settings, something he said is still being exacerbated by COVID-19 fatigue. The administrator said he wasn't overly concerned about increased transmission of the virus over the upcoming holiday, mostly because he's not sure how much worse things can get.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
[NWMISSOURINEWS.COM](http://NWMISSOURINEWS.COM)

# Residential Life adapts to virus measures

WESLEY MILLER  
News Reporter | @Wesleymiller360

Being a resident assistant or a resident director can be stressful in general, but with additional responsibilities amid a semester of COVID-19 mitigation, the job has become tougher.

A resident director's job is to be the full-time staff member in charge of a residence hall. They supervise all the RAs and the assistant resident director, while working together to advise the RAs for the programs they host, tracking those programs.

Additionally, resident directors are in charge of the hall budget, which includes funds RAs have to use as well as other operational purchases that need to be made, such as supplies for behind the desk. A diversity program residence halls are involved in, Building Relationships and Integrating Diverse Growth Experience, is also overseen by resident directors.

Resident directors are the ones who listen to any conduct cases that happen within the residence halls. A big part of the resident director job is being on call during the semester. There are six resident directors on campus who take turns serving on call. They are the ones the RAs call if there is a situation on campus.

Now, with COVID-19, they have to follow even more rules.

They have to ensure that all the residents are following the campus's mitigation policy. That might include setting up their own safety procedures, making sure everything is spread out carefully or reminding people to wear masks.

Trey Carlson, resident director for Hudson-Perrin, said that his biggest challenges have been COVID-19-related.

"Planning programming for residents has been tricky with trying to maintain social distancing while also encouraging community involvement," Carlson said in an email.

Carlson said another challenge has been reminding residents to be safe and wear their masks, but he said his biggest challenge has been getting to know his residents.

"I know the student staff very well, of course, and they tell me how their floor is doing, but in the past I have been able to have an open door in my office and residents have been able to stop in and say hello. This year with COVID, that has not been the case for me," Carlson said in an email.

Carlson said that hall council has been slow to get going, another issue he attributes to COVID-19.

While there have been some rough spots for people this year, there have also been bright spots. Carlson said that even though this is his first year at Northwest, it has been a good experience so far.

"I have had some great mentors to lean on this semester who have been here for a long time, which is really helpful," Carlson said in an email.

An RA lives in the dorms, just like the other students they help. There is at least one per floor, but in some cases there are two.

RAs keep an eye out for each of the students on your floor and ensure the rules implemented before COVID-19's impact on the residence halls are still followed. They are also required to work the front desk, answer questions, always be available, stay up late sometimes, help resolve conflicts, present events and program opportunities and confront policy violations. While doing all this is as an RA, students also have to make sure to do all their work on time.

Brittani Platt, a sophomore RA in Hudson-Perrin, said the biggest challenge she faced was managing her time and putting her school work first.

"The RA job is a big-time commitment, and you have to put a lot of energy towards it," Platt said. "Many times I caught myself putting more focus on my job than my schoolwork, which very negatively impacted me."

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
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MADI GLASS | NW MISSOURIAN  
Sophomore Resident Assistant Brittani Platt places mail in a resident's mailbox. This is one of the many tasks Resident Assistants do while working the front desks at residence halls.

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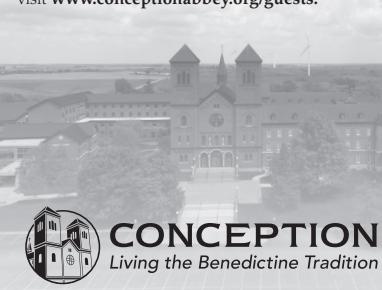
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# CRIME LOG

for the week of Nov. 16

## Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

### Nov. 16

There is an open investigation for forcible fondling at South Complex.

There is an open investigation for sexual assault at Tower Suites West.

### Nov. 14

There are four closed investigations for a liquor law violation at South Complex.

### Nov. 8

There is an open investigation for property damage at Dieterich Hall.

## Maryville Department of Public Safety

### Nov. 15

A summons was issued to **Yonathan Elful**, 20, of Kansas City, Missouri, for possession of marijuana.

There was an accident between Juliann M. Ellis, 19, and an unknown driver on the 1100 block of South Main Street.

### Nov. 14

A summons was issued to **Lane M. Reidling**, 23, of Clyde, Missouri, for driving while intoxicated and failure to illuminate headlights.

### Nov. 13

There is an ongoing investigation for larceny on the 200 block of Che Drive.

### Nov. 12

A summons was issued to **Madison E. Finteman**, 21, for failure to appear, wanted on warrant on the 400 block of North Market Street.

### Nov. 11

There was an accident on the 300 block of East Fourth Street between **William J. Wright**, 32, of Stanberry, Missouri, and **Harley K. Chappell**, 21.

### Nov. 8

There is an ongoing investigation for larceny on the 1600 block of South Main Street.

### Nov. 7

A summons was issued to **Umesh Singh**, 22, for not having a valid driver's license, failure to register a motor vehicle and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

## SARS

CONTINUED FROM A1

The alleged disbandment does not hold up as legitimate for the youth of Nigeria like it did for generations before them, Idong-Bassey said. The outspoken issue of #EndSARS has been ongoing since at least 2017, with the Nigerian government promising legitimate change in 2017, 2018, 2019 and earlier this year.

Accusations of harassment go even beyond those four years, though. An extension of violent policing into Nigerian communities became the effect of a mismanaged fight against crime that began in 1992. The country's youth largely lead today's protests, calling

## PARSON

CONTINUED FROM A1

In Parson's press release, Orscheln acknowledged that "It is inevitable that some children and adolescents will test positive," but said that in-school transmission is minimal where districts have required masks. Still, Parson has declined to require masks statewide, as the COVID-19 positivity rate in Missouri sits at 22.4% over the last seven days and as the state's seven-day rolling average of new cases has surged to unseen heights in November.

The updated guidelines came after school administrators from across the state, including Maryville RII School District Superintendent Becky Albrecht, called on the governor to alter quarantine requirements due to the disruption 14-day absences caused for students. Albrecht, along with every other superintendent in Nodaway County, signed a letter to the governor in late October requesting the change Parson announced Nov. 12.

"It's really exciting news," Albrecht said in a phone call to the Missourian Nov. 12. "It's going to help us get kids back in school. ... I'd say it's not just me, but several superintendents have been advocating for this kind of behind the scenes and working for officials for a long time, so we are very happy about the news."

For the time being, the newly-released quarantine rules would only apply to Maryville's high school and middle school, where masks are required. Maryville RII does not require masks at the elementary school level, though Albrecht said that policies could change in light of the updated guidelines.

Additionally, Albrecht said the district had yet to determine if the governor's announcement would apply retroactively to students or educators who were already quarantined when the updated guidelines were handed down. The superintendent said the district would



ANDREW WEGLEY | NW MISSOURIAN  
Northwest President John Jasinski and Missouri Gov. Mike Parson talk before the two entered the Union for a closed-door meeting Aug. 3. Parson announced updated quarantine guidelines for K-12 schools Nov. 12 that contradict CDC guidelines.

ask students in quarantine to remain there Nov. 13 as administrators figure out how to move forward, coordinating reentry on a case-by-case basis.

"It's fresh news," Albrecht said. "So there are a lot of things like that that we have to consider and questions that we have to answer."

The new guidelines come as

Nodaway County faces a record surge in COVID-19 cases, with 359 active cases in the county as of Nov. 15 — the latest available data at the time of publication. The seven-day rolling average for new COVID-19 cases in the county reached an all-time high Nov. 14. Albrecht maintained that she was comfortable with following the guidelines is-

## GRAD

CONTINUED FROM A1

Communication Manager Northwest Mark Hornickel said the decision to postpone this semester's commencement ceremonies was in the best interest of student and staff health.

"The decision came down to we're seeing cases going up again across the country," Hornickel said. "Out of an abundance of caution for our students, our employees and our community, we decided the best

ing out their government, which has pledged to end SARS in the past.

After more than a decade of brutality and harassment overwhelming the West African nation divided between those who abused power and those calling for systemic change, Moltok and Idong-Bassey are delighted to see the same citizens who were once otherwise dormant erupt against police violence.

Moltok and Idong-Bassey frequently call relatives who are seeing events unfold firsthand. Unlike international news agencies, which cannot provide the two Northwest students finite details, Moltok's cousin Ayisa, who lives in Lagos, Nigeria, could.

"What's the point of the protests if we keep going out and getting shot? They are not doing what

we are asking," Ayisa said.

The chilling reality that the Nigerian government fired into a crowd of peaceful protesters reiterated the importance of the movement for Ayisa. She wanted to attend the protests in person, but her parents felt it was not safe for her to go.

Ayisa and Moltok spoke on the phone frequently as protests were reaching their peak in October. Ayisa told Moltok that protesters were so peaceful; people came together with the goal to speak diplomatically about issues.

Protesters, Moltok said, even cleaned up any litter in the area before they left.

In hindsight, Ayisa said she is thankful for her safety and the opportunity to help inform others on

Nov. 11, the county's highest single-day total, caught the attention of University officials.

"We thought that the risk was too great. We wanted to protect our graduates, employees and their families," Hornickel said.

Even with COVID-19's continued impact on the University, Hornickel said he is encouraged by the number of graduates this fall and the stories of success he was able to find when working to compile the weekly Northwest Digest.

"We all wanted to be on campus. ... We saw faculty being really in-

novative with their teaching. ... I think it's really a tribute to our entire campus community," Hornickel said. "We have so many stories to tell, even in a pandemic."

Fall semester classes will meet in person for the last time Nov. 24, before Northwest dismisses for Thanksgiving break. That week, Nov. 24-29 will serve as the institution's "dead week," aiming to provide students ample time to study for final exams beginning the week of Nov. 30.

50-something. It doesn't make sense. We need young people in power. People who don't have to survive on drugs," Moltok said.

Her cousin Ayisa agreed. While Nigeria operates in a federal republic system inspired by the United States, citizens like Ayisa are speaking out on perceived corruption from not only a brutal police force but also politicians who allow it to operate.

While Nigeria's government made a transition from dictatorship and military control to a citizen elected presidency in the 1990s, the goal of representation of Nigeria's diverse groups seems to leave out one category of people according to Idong-Bassey: the youth.

Now, with a movement reaching nations across the world, Nigeria, Idong-Bassey said, could be facing conversations that go deeper than SARS — a revolution for justice and fixing a broken system of governing.

"Whenever the Nigerian government feels the heat of the international community, things actually change. Unfortunately that's what's happening back home," Idong-Bassey said.

Even with a movement outing deeply rooted issues in their government, Idong-Bassey and Moltok both miss home. They miss the good things about Nigeria that make them feel whole. Of these, they mentioned the comfort of food with spice that American's probably couldn't handle and the collective mindset of Nigerian culture.

It was apparent, Moltok said, that the violence was no longer an exception to the rule — it was life. It was normal. And at the peak of an outcry, two Nigerian Bearcats can't wait to get home.

While they have grown to enjoy Northwest and Maryville, the imminent role they will play in the movement to go beyond ending SARS weighs on their hearts. Because justice, perhaps, is simply defined as people like Moltok and Idong-Bassey, who see injustice anywhere and speak out on it.

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# FOR THE CULTURE: My hopes for Biden's term as president

CORBIN SMITH  
Columnist  
@curly\_corbs



"Free at last! Free at last!  
Thank God Almighty, we are free  
at last!"

I find it baffling how the late Martin Luther King Jr.'s delivery of that line fell 100 years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. What's more baffling is that, in some way, we're all still waiting to join together to sing that old spiritual. Am I impatient, or does racism continue to hide its ugly face behind the mask of American leadership?

I beg the latter. King delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech in hopes of freeing Black people from the "manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination." It's been 57 years since King's words reverberated from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, and to this day, the Black community continues to fight for acceptance.

With the reigns of America being unwillingly passed from President Donald Trump to President-elect Joe Biden, there's hope for the freedom King once spoke of.

During Trump's presidency, many citizens of color were trapped in what could only be described as a nightmare in which you're screaming but nobody can hear you. In 2020 specifically, Black Lives Matter gained more media coverage than ever, yet our cries were still not heard and bodies continued to crumble.

The Black community has been through a lot in America regardless of who runs "the greatest country in the world." In order to make us feel a little more welcome, here's what I hope Biden will do for the Black community as he takes over the White House.

Condemn white supremacist groups. This is something Trump failed to do in his presidential debate. I find it appalling that Black Lives Matter was created to, and still stands to, fight for justice for Black individuals in America, but its supporters are constantly coined as domestic terrorists. Meanwhile, the Ku Klux Klan has a history of horrifying organized hate crimes and still operates without the label of a terrorist group.

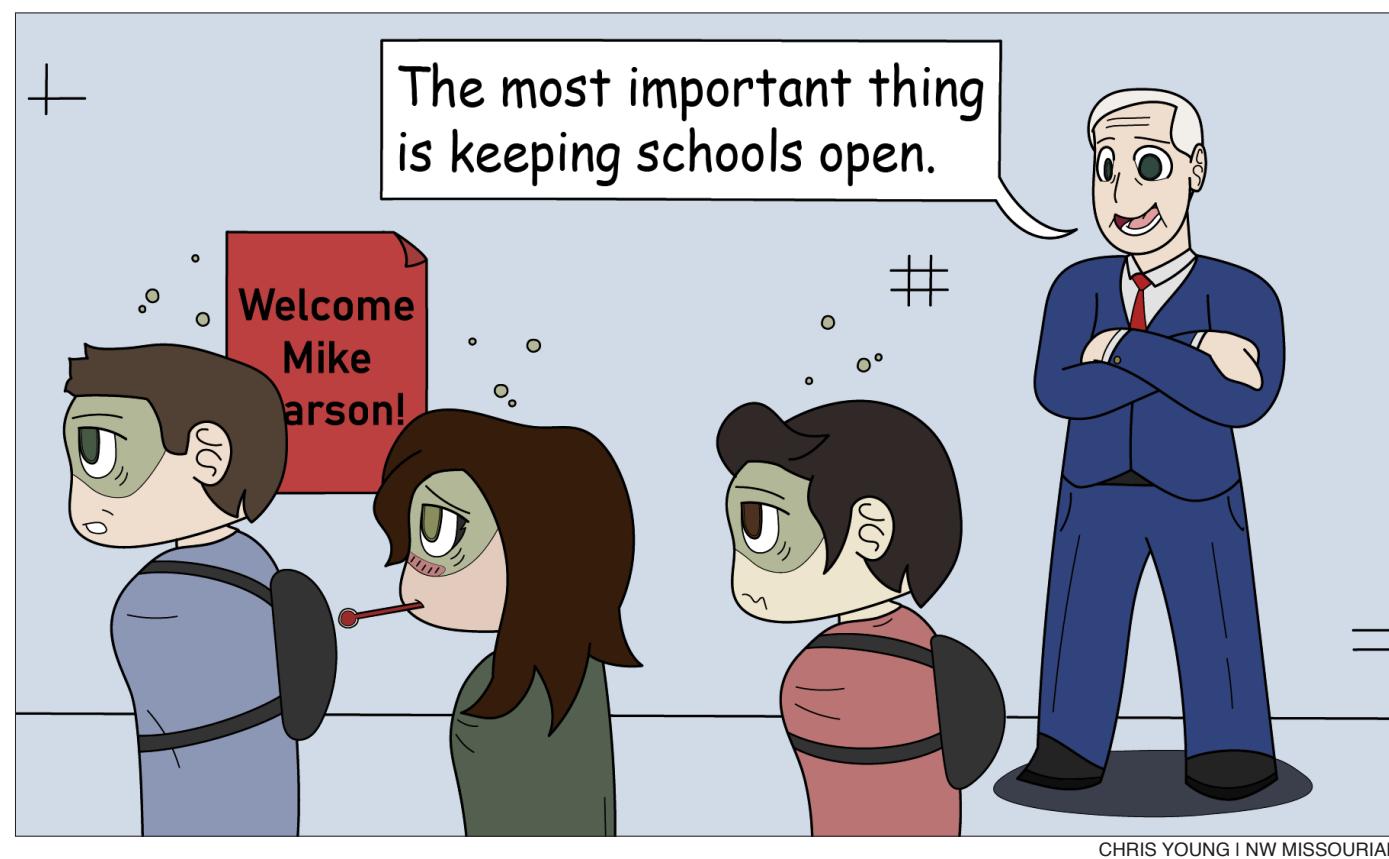
Don't talk about it; be about it. Biden has proposed a plan to help increase Black mobility by investing in Black-owned businesses and making it easier for them to access credit and capital.

On average, minority-owned businesses receive customer reviews that are just as high as white-owned businesses. However, in Black-majority neighborhoods, only 30% of businesses produce profit margins at or above 15%, compared to 70% of businesses in white-majority neighborhoods.

The Black community has been strong for all of its existence and deserves a lot of credit for how society works today. The president needs to understand the complexity and necessity of each group, so that we can all be free like the dream King had for all.

"This note was a promise that all men, yes, Black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," King said.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
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CHRIS YOUNG | NW MISSOURIAN

## OUR VIEW:

# RECKLESS

## Parson puts lives at risk with new guidelines

The map is red for a different reason in Missouri. Yes, while conservatism still dominates the political landscape of rural Missouri, there is another reason red is engulfing the state: COVID-19.

Missouri, like most of the Midwest, is doing very poorly in its handling of COVID-19. Cases and hospitalizations are peaking all over the state, and Nodaway County is being ravaged by the virus. Naturally, now is the time to loosen restrictions and safety protocols.

Gov. Mike Parson's administration released new guidelines for Missouri K-12 schools on Nov. 12. These guidelines eliminated the need for close contacts of those who tested positive for the coronavirus to quarantine if both parties were wearing a mask at the time of contact. This would only be implemented in school districts that require masks to be worn and districts would be allowed to continue under previous quarantine guidelines if they choose.

Parson stated that he wants to keep schools open as long as possible, it seems a little late for him to start valuing education, teachers or students now. Parson's administration oversaw the slashing of the K-12 education budget by over \$130 million earlier this year.

The governor also made comments in July to a radio show saying students would "get over it," if they contract CO-

VID-19. Hopefully, their parents and grandparents will also be able to get over it when the child brings it home with them.

While it's clear that education has never been a priority of his, he claimed that the new guidelines would promote more proper mask use.

An actual mask mandate for the state of Missouri would likely encourage proper mask usage, but of course, Parson would not do that either.

It's clear that the highest executive in the Show-Me State has no intention of actually doing what's best for students or teachers. Their lives being at risk is of little consequence to him as long as he can say he kept schools open. He has proven himself a feckless leader, but what's more concerning is that local education leaders are siding with him.

Maryville R-II School District Superintendent Becky Albrecht called the new guidelines "exciting news" in an interview with the Missourian.

Albrecht has been in support of loosening guidelines for a while, so much so that she wrote a letter to the governor urging him to do so.

While it certainly looks good for an administrator to keep high attendance during this time, it looks better to actually keep kids and teachers safe. This change in guidelines will most assured-

ly result in more risk for teachers. Working in a profession that the general public complains is undervalued before voting for politicians who undervalue it, teachers will again be put at risk by those above them.

They now must hope that the students who came in contact with a positive case were actually truthful when they claimed to wear a mask during the interaction.

Expecting a high schooler to self-report exposure when not wearing a mask is a taller order than expecting Parson to become an effective leader. Neither seems likely. In a fight that pits a deadly virus against the people of Missouri, it's unclear whose side Parson is on.

The inevitable will take place. Students and teachers won't quarantine after being exposed under the new guidelines. They will further expose others who will expose others.. Cases and hospitalizations will rise and fatalities will follow, but at least schools will stay open.

The new rules for quarantine are indicative of the problem the state as a whole has had when dealing with COVID-19. We would rather see an immediate return to "normalcy" over protecting others. Parson is not on the side of Missourians. He is on his own side, and inexplicably, Albrecht and other government employees paid to keep students safe are in his corner.

## YOUR VIEW:

Do you think close contacts to positive COVID-19 cases should quarantine if both parties were wearing a mask when the contact occurred?

DEJA LAMB  
Junior  
Public Relations



"Yes, I think so, just to be safe for everyone involved. It's just the best option."

SYDNEY REED  
Freshman  
Biochemistry



ISABELLE ALLEN  
Freshman  
Wildlife Conservation and Ecology



"Yes, I think it's the best idea just so everyone is safe. Even if, you know, stuff didn't get transferred, it's just best."

# THE STROLLER: Your Bearcat hates 2020 Thanksgiving

Out of an abundance of caution — I hear this phrase in my nightmares — my family has decided to shrink the guestlist for this year's Thanksgiving. It will result in some classic staples being absent from the party.

For one, I will only have to answer the holy trinity of Thanksgiving questions one or two times this year instead of the normal amount, which is 11. For those wondering, the questions are as follows, in this order: How's college life? What's your major? Are

you seeing anyone? The answers to those questions are the same this year as they are every year. They are of course: Good. Something meaningless. No, I just ate an entire pan of green bean casserole in four bites; people with a significant other don't do that.

I will also be missing out on a large percentage of the thinly veiled, or not veiled at all, racist takes from relatives. The only thing more reliable at a white people's Thanksgiving than a racist political conversation is the terri-

ble attempt to make a joke out of the uncomfortable racist conversation. I will do that now.

These remarks can be mostly characterized as a "white people problem" since us white people have the market cornered on racist relatives. These statements are problematic not only for their general beliefs but also for the fact that those who say them feel comfortable enough to say them in our presence.

I will miss my cousin trying to defend "Mien Kampf" as a book

for intellectuals while sitting underneath the sign in our kitchen that says "All are welcome."

As with everything else in 2020, Thanksgiving will be another thing changed by the coronavirus. So try and enjoy your quiet, peaceful Thanksgiving, and if you want to spice things up a bit, get a new piercing before you go home. That'll create a good two hours of conversation.

*The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.*

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# THE GROWING DIVIDE

*Northwest political organizations react to results of the election*

ABIGAIL STARR  
News Reporter | @abbeystarr5

**N**orthwest organizations are reacting to the 2020 Presidential election with consequences on issues like COVID-19, climate change, the economy and the national image.

Both political groups on campus — Northwest Missouri College Democrats and Northwest College Republicans — have grievances with their own parties and the opposition. Despite their differences in affiliation, the two groups work to uplift student voices and create environments that foster civil dialogue. The groups hold watch parties, host guest speakers and establish a central message.

College Democrats President Tyler Bears grew up on far-right television and was immersed in his family's hatred for Barack Obama. It wasn't until Bears stumbled upon Jon Stewart on "The Daily Show" that he realized he disagreed with his family. He has been a loyal Democrat ever since, believing in the importance of safety for minority communities, science and universal healthcare.

"Democrats have been given this duty to protect and uplift the most vulnerable members of our society," Bears said.

William Anderson, vice president of College Republicans and social media manager for Northwest Students for Life, said he believes the unborn are the most vulnerable in the United States. When he learned of his grandmother being nearly forced to abort his mother, his passion for protecting the unborn began. His belief in anti-abortion is the backbone of his decision to side with the right. He also votes for a better economy.

"My third value is traditional grassroot values: constitutionalism, good ol' stars and stripes, saying thank you, ma'am, thank you, sir," Anderson said.

College Republicans offer a platform for what Anderson called an unwelcome opinion on the Northwest campus.

Anderson voted for Donald Trump and Mike Pence for the president and vice president. Treasurer Abigail Shepherd and member Savannah Baker also voted for a Republican ticket for Second Amendment protections, economic growth, the now conservative majority on the Supreme Court and out of concern of President-elect Joe Biden's policies regarding taxes.

Bears voted for Biden and Sen. Kamala Harris for president and vice president. Members of College Democrats Jordan Unger and Amy McMullen did the same. The three say the reasons include COVID-19, climate change, race relations, education and what Bears describes as the regression of America under Trump.

While both groups felt confident in their decisions, they were both able to admit there were grievances to be had with their own candidate. One of the largest concerns for College Democrats is Harris, the vice president-elect.

Bears and Anderson agree Harris needs to provide answers for her time as a district attorney in San Francisco, California. Harris earned a reputation for toughness when she prosecuted cases of gang violence, drug trafficking and sexual abuse.

When the College Democrats watched last year's preliminary hearings, they noticed Harris and Biden often disagreed on policies. Bears also referenced what he called a transphobic past between Harris and the LGBTQ community. However, the College Democrats agree it was time for diversity in the office.

"The way that I justify voting for a Biden-Harris ticket is the fact that I know that a Trump-Pence ticket would be objectively worse in every single measure," Bears said.



HAILEY MACH | NW MISSOURIAN

Junior Jordan Unger (left), sophomore Amy McMullen and senior Tyler Bears discuss the political climate before the College Democrats meeting Nov. 16 in the J. W. Jones Student Union.

Trump has also been accused of being transphobic, along with homophobic, racist and more. Shepherd said she believes Trump's ban on transgender military service was intended to protect transgender people if they're lacking proper hormone treatments. She also referenced the low unemployment rates for minorities during Trump's presidency.

"How can you say that about one person while representing the other person that has quoted evidence of being racist himself," Shepherd said.

She was referring to a quote from Biden saying, "Poor kids are just as bright and just as talented as white kids."

The three conservatives agreed that while the two share similar faults, Trump lacks professionalism. Shepherd explains the differences between Trump and Biden with an analogy about the importance of experience in the medical field.

I won't be crying 'not my president,' but I'll always wear my hat.

- VICE PRESIDENT OF COLLEGE REPUBLICANS WILLIAM ANDERSON SAID, REFERENCING HIS RED HAT WITH "KEEP AMERICA GREAT" IN LARGE WHITE LETTERS.

"You have a surgeon," Shepherd said. "You can have one that's super skilled, knows what they're doing and has shown success but doesn't have the best bedside manners, or you can have the one that has decent bedside manners and has been a surgeon for 47 years and has a very low track record of success."

Shepherd's father is a police officer. With racial relationships with police officers having been in question this year following the death of George Floyd in May, Shepherd said the disrespect towards police officers has to stop.

"There is always going to be a bad apple in the bunch, and I do think that we should work to eliminate that," Shepherd said. "A 19-year-old girl such as myself shouldn't have to worry that every phone call she gets is a call that her dad's been shot at work."

Unger agreed that relationships need to be improved, but he said it starts with the police. He grew up in a family with many different races and backgrounds, all with unique experiences with police. Bears said he feels Biden could stand to be more progressive in that area.

Anderson said the events surrounding Floyd's death were tragic but believed that Floyd was resisting arrest in video footage he's seen. He said if more Americans would have seen this footage, protests wouldn't have led to so much destruction. Anderson said this difference in the evaluation of the situation leads to a target on the back of the GOP.

"We don't go all the way to the socialist viewpoint that they want," Anderson said.

Unger said Trump's denial of science has caused him to lose faith in the administration. As a biology major, Unger said it was frustrating to hear Trump call COVID-19 a hoax and suggest cleaning the forest to stop the forest fires on the West Coast.

College Republicans sponsor David Vlieger, assistant mathematics professor, and the three members question the validity of the current numbers due to the politicalization of the pandemic and say the 99% survival rate is overlooked.

Anderson knows Biden is a practicing Catholic but struggles with his pro-abortion stance.

"Catholics for Biden makes as much sense as vegans for hamburgers," Anderson said.

Following pushback from the Democratic Party after the inauguration of Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett, citizens like Bears and Unger fear some of the largest court cases in history may be at risk.

One of those is Roe v. Wade of 1973. Students for Life is hopeful this case will be overturned. Students for Life President Tihana Conover also hopes to see Planned Parenthood defunded and replaced with more resources for pregnant women with the exception of birth control.

"Christians are now old-fashioned," Conover said. "Anything that stops a human life from being made shouldn't happen."

Obergefell v. Hodges of 2015 is also under fire. The case was won in a 5-4 vote. Now the court sits at 6-3 with a conservative majority.

Both Bears and Unger are members of the LGBTQ community and rely on the decision to have a marriage recognized by the United States government. Bears said he's terrified of Barrett and believes she was only pushed through due to doubt that Trump would win a second term.

"Trump this entire time has been a useful idiot. He became more and more unpopular especially as COVID went on," Bears said. "Republicans don't care about playing by the rules; they don't. They will act like they will, and they act like they'll take the highroad, but they won't, and Democrats fall for it every single time."

Baker and Shepherd described Barrett as a powerhouse. While Harris' win is historical in being the first Black and South Asian woman in the office of vice president, they don't think she's the right woman for the job.

"I personally don't think race or gender should play into what job you get or your lot in life," Shepherd said. "Based on what I've heard from other people, Kamala Harris is pretty much the VP because she is a woman and she's Black."

Shepherd said she admired Barrett's ability to manage seven children, two of which are adopted from Haiti, while holding a full-time job. Her knowledge of the adoption process appealed to Shepherd.

All three of the College Republican members said they admired Barrett's denial to answer some questions during her inauguration hearings. It showed them she would wait to look at the evidence on cases before coming to a conclusion.

Eyes are now on the Supreme Court to decide who the next president of the United States will be following recounts in many swing states like Georgia, Pennsylvania and Arizona. The members of each group agree a recount should be done and say they will accept the results of the election.

"I won't be crying 'not my president,' but I'll always wear my hat," Anderson said, referencing his red hat with "Keep America Great" in large white letters.

Anderson also attended the Students for Life meeting wearing a mask reading "I'm only wearing this so I don't get fined." He described the current election results as another Bush vs. Gore situation, referring to the contested election in 2000.

The College Democrats have many fears going forward even if Biden remains the president-elect and takes office in 2021.

Bears said he worries about too many concessions from Biden and that there will be a gridlock between parties until Senate and House reelections in 2022. Unger worries that the sides will become more polarized. McMullen said the amount of misinformation in the world right now is concerning. Bears agreed.

"One of the most damaging things that Trump has done to this country is the amount of doubt that he is trying to instill in our institution or about our institution," Bears said.

The uncertainty of the future weighs heaviest on the students. Until the several lawsuits the Trump administration has filed are dealt with and regardless of whether he concedes, America anticipates a new president in January.

## POSTPONED

CONTINUED FROM A10

Now, the Bearcats will set their sights on opening the season against Rogers State Nov. 21 in Claremore, Oklahoma. The two programs met once last year, the first ever meeting between the two, which resulted in Northwest winning 74-55 in Bearcat Arena.

The Hillcats finished right behind the Bearcats in the MIAA last year with a final record of 24-6, including a 15-4 mark in conference play.

The Bearcats are hoping the second time has a similar result the first, despite the Hillcats being the second-best team in the MIAA last season.

"I feel like every game in the MIAA feels like it's for a national championship, just with the level of energy we all bring," senior forward Ryan Hawkins said, the reigning MIAA Defensive Player of the Year. "(Rogers State) is a good team; they play hard and compete. ... Watching them in the conference tournament, they were in that for a reason."

"They're a physical team, well-coached," McCollum said. "It'll be a very difficult game to start our season, but we're excited and we're ready."

Northwest tabbed as No. 1 in

the NABC Preseason Coaches Poll, marking the fifth consecutive year the Bearcats graced the spot at one point in the season.

Hawkins said the squad is hoping to translate that ranking into a first-place product on the court this season.

"We don't really make a lot of it. I feel like we've given that effort this preseason and this start of the season before games," Hawkins said. "(McCollum) loves to talk about it during practice though. He'll always tell us if we have a bad drill or something, 'You're not playing like a championship team right now.'"

One of the biggest changes compared to prior seasons is the fact that there weren't any exhibition games to allow McCollum to see what his squad will bring to the court. The team has realized that, but the Bearcats don't care.

They're hoping the preparation during the offseason, along with the work they've put in since official practices started Oct. 15, is enough to get off to a hot start while seeking their third title in four complete seasons.

"Last year we started out at Duke; I don't think you're going to find much better competition than getting to play them," Hawkins said. "This year, we've had three



GRACE ELROD | NW MISSOURIAN

**Northwest men's basketball was supposed to open the season Nov. 19 against Northeastern State in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Instead, the 'Cats will open the year Nov. 21 against Rogers State in Claremore, Oklahoma, due to positive COVID-19 tests.**

extra weeks to prepare for our first game because we didn't get the tournament we normally do in St. Joe. So, normally at this point in the year, we've played five or six games. Now we're going into conference play straight off of the bat, and you've just gotta prepare the best you can in practice."

The Bearcats can't control Northeastern State having to postpone. The Bearcats won't be able to control if they, too, eventually

have to postpone. There are, however, a few things Hawkins said the Bearcats are in control of throughout this season's journey.

"You can always control your attitude and effort," Hawkins said. "That's the biggest key for us going into this weekend."

And as peculiar as the season is shaping up to be without having started yet, Hawkins said basketball isn't the only thing that feels unusual compared to life before March.

He's hoping to have a sense of normalcy when returning to the court, and hopes to stay there for the entirety of the season.

"I don't know that the MIAA feels any different; I think it's more just — life, honestly," Hawkins said. "Everything is not what we're all used to, it's different. Basketball is going to be that silver lining for a lot of people, I hope, and I'm one of them, so I'm excited for a chance to play."



HAILEY MACH | NW MISSOURIAN

**Maryville High School boys soccer midfielder sophomore Quinn Pettlon attempts to score a goal against Lone Jack Nov. 10 at the 'Hound Pound. Pettlon was one of eight Spoofhounds honored to the Class 3 All-District team.**

## Boys reflect on season after quarterfinal loss

DALTON TRUSSEL  
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports



to get in a groove, develop team chemistry and learn how to play when you are only playing one game every two weeks."

Maryville may have missed the chance at a state title this year, but that doesn't mean the Spoofhounds can't take away some good from this year, Tolson said.



We hope they can hold on to the things we taught them and pick up where we left off next year."

**-COACH TOLSON**

the style of soccer we were starting to play at the end of the

season — quick passes, fewer touches and less dribbling," Tolson said. "We are very excited to have all of our starters back but one and think we can be even better next year."

With the season coming to an end, there is still something that the players can take away from this year, Tolson said.

"We want them to know that we're proud of the season they had, not just for winning a district title but for the effort they put in each day and for the massive improvement each player made," Tolson said. "We hope they can hold on to the things we taught them and pick up where we left off next year."

In the end, the Spoofhounds came up short in the quarterfinal game, capping off a season they weren't exactly sure would even happen.

Now, the Spoofhounds turn their sights to the offseason, when they'll improve on their shortcomings to make another run in the postseason.

"The biggest thing I would have changed would have been for us to have more games this season, but that was out of our control because of COVID," Tolson said. "It's hard

## BEARCATS

CONTINUED FROM A10

Haggard, who played in 27 games and led the team in 3-pointers with 66 made, while shooting 39.6% from beyond the arc, received high praise from her coach.

"She's been great. She's worked extremely hard going into this senior season and throughout this summer," Meyer said. "She's put in a lot of time, and she's continued to improve each year. She's on everyone's scouting report and everyone knows what she can do. Just a really good kid who plays extremely hard and is a good of a shooter as there is."

Shortly after the Bearcats face Northeastern State, they will have two days to travel to Claremore, Oklahoma, and prepare for Rogers State Nov. 21.

The 762 miles the Bearcats will travel on the road trip may seem daunting to some, but the women are embracing the opportunity to play when they weren't sure if they'd get that.

"We're all pretty excited. Having the first two games on the road, I don't know why, but we as a team usually play better on the road than at home," McConkey said. "I mean, I'm just excited to get to play."

Rogers State finished 13th in the MIAA standings during the 2019-20 season, and they are projected to finish in that same spot again after the voting of the Preseason MIAA Coaches Poll.

Rogers State welcomes back

seven letter winners from last season, which includes six players who have starting experience. These starting players will look to contribute more and find ways to score against a tough Bearcat defense.

In last year's matchup, Rogers State lacked a scoring threat and was held to 48 points. That allowed the Northwest to have a field day on defense, along with a 63-48 victory.

The Bearcat defense combined for 11 total blocks against Rogers State last season, with redshirt freshman Jayna Green contributing five of those blocks.

While shooting 39% during the game, Northwest relied on its points from the charity stripe, making 16-17 shots from the free-throw line. Free throws have not been a struggle in recent seasons for the Bearcats, as they ranked fifth in free throw percentage among Division II last season. Haggard made 90.9% of her free throws last year, and senior guard Kylie Coleman closely followed suit, making 90.2%.

With six seniors and nine underclassmen on the squad the Bearcats believe they have enough experienced players and resilient newcomers to make a statement.

"Our seniors, we've been down this road before and we've been here together all four years, so we know each other's strengths and we know how to play to that," Haggard said. "I think this year is going to be one of our best years yet, and I think we're excited to build off this chemistry we've already established and incorporate our underclassmen who are tough too."

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MADI GLASS | NW MISSOURIAN

**Northwest runner Abdelrahim Mahgoub works on drills with his team at practice Nov. 10 in the Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse. The track and field season is set to start in January with no officially scheduled dates yet.**

# NW runner eyes spring after claiming MIAA title

MORGAN GUYER  
Missourian Reporter I @NWMSports

At the 600-yard run during the MIAA championships, he crossed the finish line, nothing that he hadn't done countless times prior to that one. In that last individual race of his sophomore season however, he did it as an MIAA champion.

Northwest runner Abdelrahim Mahgoub found his love for track and field at Oak Park High School in Kansas City, Missouri.

"I started running track in my freshman year, but I wasn't really taking it seriously," Mahgoub said. "Around my junior and senior year, I started to realize I could be good at it, so I started focusing all my energy on track."

That energy translated to Mahgoub being one of the 20 Bearcats named a USTFCCCA All-American last season. Mahgoub was influenced to come and run at Northwest by his sister, Hiba Mahgoub, who is also on the track and field team.

"She really convinced me that Northwest was the best option and a good opportunity for my education and track," Mahgoub said. "My first semester I was a little skeptical, but now I think it's the best place for me."

His experience on the track and field team has been heightened, having his sister by his side.

"It's awesome; I like it a lot," Mahgoub said. "We build off each

other and try to push each other every single time we practice."

Mahgoub, who goes by A.R., had a successful sophomore year in numerous events, placing second in the 800-meter run at the Bearcat Open on Feb. 7-8. He also ran with the 4x400-meter relay team, placing second at the MIAA championships Feb. 28-31 in Pittsburg, Kansas. He struggled with an injury throughout the season but recovered in time for the MIAA championships.

There, he ran a time of 1:10.87 to claim the MIAA title in the 600-yard run. It's a moment that Mahgoub is proud of.

"It was amazing; I had a lot of fun with it," Mahgoub said. "I didn't expect to win coming off of an injury, and my confidence wasn't there. The coaching and training helped me succeed when I needed to succeed."

Mahgoub and the rest of the Northwest track and field team was getting ready to prepare for the NCAA championships in Birmingham, Alabama, when the event was canceled due to COVID-19. Mahgoub was set to compete in the 4x400 relay during the two-day event starting March 13.

He turned his attention to this season, beginning preseason preparation. He tested positive for COVID-19, forcing him to take a month off due to a heart issue.

"It was very difficult at first because you're out of shape and not really mentally ready," Mahgoub said. "I was behind everyone else

and just had to catch up."

Being out for a month changed Mahgoub's preseason preparation, causing him to alter his training.

"I had to prepare in a different way than last year. It really pushed me back into training, while everyone else was ahead," Mahgoub said. "I've been working on my speed lately, and I also need to be able focus in better and be engaged more."

Track and field coach Brandon Masters has attempted to change some of Mahgoub's training in order for him to improve for the upcoming season.

"He's learned a lot the last couple of years. He's super talented," Masters said. "We changed his training slightly to give him more foot speed."

Despite the setbacks during the offseason, Masters sees a bright future for Mahgoub.

"He has really come a long way, and he has guys pushing him on a daily basis in practice. This is the year for him to break out," Masters said. "This is his time for the national level. He's a type of guy that will do very well at nationals; we just have to get him there."

The track and field season is set to start in January, without an official date or schedule set in place yet. With the season approaching, Mahgoub has set his mind on the coming year.

"I hope to win at conference again and hopefully win at nationals, or at least make it to nationals."

## Northwest women place third at national meet

TANNER SMITH  
Sports Reporter I @t\_smith02

Northwest cross country finished up its last competition of the year Nov. 14 in Lubbock, Texas, at the Division II XC National Invitational, where the women placed third and the men didn't compete.

Due to a positive COVID-19 test on the men's team, which led to contact tracing, the men were not able to make the trip.

The women had to run in conditions they weren't used to. With 20-30 mph winds, dry weather and dust flying around, the team wasn't familiar with the conditions. Despite the atypical weather, the team was able to put in a strong showing.

"The women's team went out and competed, doing well even though the conditions were tough," coach Nick Gibson said. "The competition was the best in the country, and I feel they made a statement for not only them but Northwest cross country as a whole."

Junior Caroline Cunningham placed fourth for the Bearcats with a time of 22 minutes 40 seconds and 2 milliseconds. Sophomore Delanie Dykes placed eighth with a time of 22:59.7. Dykes previously finished first in the pseudo-MIAA meet on Oct. 30.

"I think Delanie started out a little too hard to start the race," Gibson said. "This was only her third



MADI GLASS | NW MISSOURIAN

Northwest women's cross country placed third at the Division II XC National Invitational Nov. 14 in Lubbock, Texas. The men qualified for the meet as well, but didn't make the trip due to the team having an outbreak of positive COVID-19 tests. Both the men and women turn their attention to track season.

ever cross country meet, so I think she is still getting used to the distance we run, but she has shown great progress and will succeed for the next few years."

Dykes came to Northwest as a track and field runner. After her freshman year, she decided to ven-

ture into both cross country and track and field. This would have been her first full season of cross country, but due to COVID-19, she was only able to compete in the two races that were held.

"I think we went out there and gave it everything we had to com-

pete against some of the best teams in the nation," Dykes said. "For not having many opportunities this year, we were all just excited to get out there and compete, and that's just what we did, racing for each other."

As the Bearcats reflected on

their weekend, they understood what they did well and know what to work on for track and field season, as well as cross country in 2021. The women's team showed its potential for the next few years and what needs to be improved.

"The MIAA race was a good way to realize our strengths as a team, and I think that helped us prepare for this race," Dykes said. "Our team is still young, so I think we can learn from this race and do things differently in the near future."

Since the men's team did not compete, its focus is now to get ready for track and field season. The majority of the team participates in both sports, so the transition for the runners will be second nature.

Having finished its season, the women's team will also be transitioning into track and field. Some of the athletes' roles will change, as they compete in different events and do not strictly stay with long distance as their main focus.

"Training will be the same for most of the men and women on the team," Gibson said. "Some of the runners will focus more on their 1500 and 800 races, which is much shorter. But other than that, the training stays consistent throughout the year."

For now, the schedule for the track and field season has not been released, but the season is expected to happen despite COVID-19. The Bearcats will return to campus in January in preparation for a season, hoping to start by the early stages of February.

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# MIAA preps for virus disruption

JON WALKER  
Sports Editor I @ByJonWalker



Despite uncertainties around it looming for months, basketball season is here.

The NCAA has compiled regulation after regulation since COVID-19 impacted the world of sports, including numerous return to action plans for the different levels of athletics.

MIAA Commissioner Mike Racy isn't worried, he said Nov. 11 at the virtual MIAA Media Day.

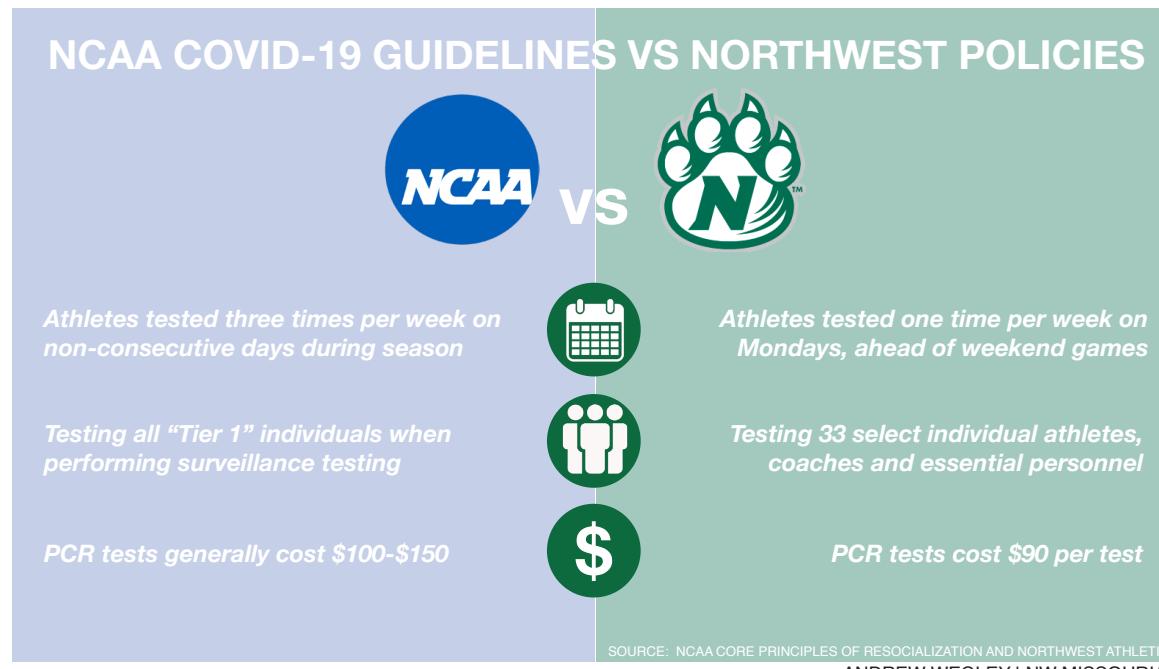
"You always have concerns about every season and the health and safety of our student-athletes and coaches," Racy said over Zoom. "We feel we've got appropriate protocols in place that we'll continue to educate our student-athletes and coaches about appropriate behavior during a pandemic, regarding mask wearing and socially distancing and good hygiene and all of the appropriate precautions."

The MIAA collectively agreed to test every Monday throughout the entirety of basketball season. It's created complications throughout the format the MIAA has created, an 11-week schedule that has games played every Thursday and Saturday.

Northwest men's basketball has already faced the ramifications of COVID-19 prior to the season even beginning. The Bearcats were supposed to start the season Nov. 19 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, against Northeastern State. The Riverhawks announced Nov. 13 they had positive coronavirus tests among the program and wouldn't be ready to face Northwest.

It's a pattern that administrators, coaches and players fear will reverberate throughout the walls of gyms across the MIAA this season.

"It's gonna be difficult when we have more games get delayed or postponed or whatever you want to call it. It's going to be tough," Northwest Director of Athletics Andy Peterson said. "I keep telling people, 'It's not that it's not going



SOURCE: NCAA CORE PRINCIPLES OF RESOCIALIZATION AND NORTHWEST ATHLETICS

ANDREW WEGLEY | NW MISSOURIAN

to be fair; it is going to be unfair.' There's a difference there. We all know it's not going to be fair, but it's really hard to grasp the idea that it's going to be unfair. You're going to be going to someplace, at some point, playing people that have had three, four, five days rest, and you've got two games under your belt in the last three days."

The NCAA partnered with the Sport Science Institute to create the Core Principles of Resocialization of Collegiate Basketball, a guide full of recommendations across all levels of the NCAA for the return to the court for programs.

The outline suggests that programs competing test three times per week on nonconsecutive days but never mandates or requires any of those suggestions.

There are two tests recommended by the NCAA for programs planning to compete during the 2020-21 school year: the PCR and antigen tests.

The PCR test is one that has become familiarized across the United States, the one in which people are required to have a swab in their nose or saliva sample. Those, due

to the accuracy, can be costly. Peterson said Northwest is using this model since it's more accurate than the antigen test and costs Northwest Athletics \$90 per test.

The antigen test is more commonly known as the rapid test, in which the results are presented in approximately 15 minutes.

that are testing with that once a week catch it earlier than if kids are — No. 1 before they get symptomatic and No. 2 before they get contagious," Peterson said. "Antigen testing is just what it is. It's not quite as sensitive, but if you do it more frequently, it's going to be just as accurate as you are with the PCR test."

“

We all know it's not going to be fair, but it's really hard to grasp the idea that it's going to be unfair.”

- ANDY PETERSON, NORTHWEST AD

However, Peterson said, it's less accurate than the PCR test is. One of these costs Athletics roughly \$35.

"The PCR testing is a lot more sensitive, so you're hoping that folks

Peterson isn't sure what the future holds for basketball season, particularly regarding the amount of testing it'll require to get through it. He hopes testing once a week works but understands the situation

is still as fluid as it was in March.

"I think with antigen testing, we could get there pretty quickly," Peterson said about testing more than once per week. "It just comes down to, at that point, a budgetary finance and if we'd be able to do that."

The biggest issue, of course, is trying to get 12 programs through a 22-game schedule. Peterson said he's hoping it's slightly easier because of the conference-only format the MIAA adopted this season.

Another issue is what programs will do whenever key players are out due to either testing positive or due to contact tracing from previous games.

"That's where it's gonna be unfair," Peterson said. "You're going to have people that are contact traced or positive, and you'll be without your All-American or Freshman of the Year or your defensive superstar, whatever it might be. You're going to be without that person for however many games. It's going to be crazy."

The MIAA had concerns that coaches wouldn't want to play games if key players were out. Peterson said the conference came together to decide it doesn't matter.

It doesn't matter that Northwest could be without reigning MIAA Player of the Year Trevor Hudgins, Defensive Player of the Year Ryan Hawkins or standout guard Diego Bernard — the Bearcats will still have to take the court.

"That's where athletics directors and presidents of the universities get involved and say, 'If you've got six healthy bodies, we're playing basketball!'" Peterson said. "It may not be the right six, but if they have six then we've got to play to get that game in."

Regardless if it's the right or wrong players, teams across the MIAA will embark on a journey that's scheduled to conclude in the last week of February.

Through every speed bump, obstacle and detour that stems from the weekly COVID-19 tests, the MIAA is hoping to get 12 teams to the end destination of the postseason.

## Second-year coach settles into role amid pandemic

TRISTAN LYNCH  
Missourian Reporter I @NWMSports



As the Maryville boy's wrestling team prepares for the season to begin, coach Dallas Barrett is getting ready to build on last year's experience as he moves forward into his second year at the helm of the program.

At the beginning of last season, Barrett was promoted to head coach with the departure of the former coach Kody Koster before the end of the 2018-19 season. Barrett filled the position with little coaching experience, but was well-equipped with wrestling experience from being a state qualifier in high school, college wrestling and competing in MMA.

"Having those college drills and college perspectives really kind of shows you what types of techniques

you use in college versus what you use in high school, which you aren't really going to ever use," Barrett said. "Then you get in the MMA, it's much more individualized, so you kind of lose that team aspect, but having all that experience really helped."

Despite Barrett's lack of coaching experience, senior Kieren Watkins was excited to learn from him and was ready to adjust to the new coaching style.

"Everybody's coaching style is a little bit different," Watkins said. "But we have definitely picked up the pace on conditioning and practicing in general. Every coach's wrestling style is different, and he knows a lot of really good things that he has been teaching us."

Over the course of his first season, Barrett dealt with many challenges, but injuries were the most tedious.

"There are always the daily challenges, which are always different," Barrett said. "But last year there was the challenge of just keeping everybody healthy, injury-wise, and guys like Connor Weiss that were injured coming out of football, we had several of them that were just banged up from their last football game, so that was definitely a big challenge last year."

As Barrett had to navigate the challenges of health, he also had to adjust with the rules, which were different from when he was in high school.

Even after settling in and working out all the challenges of being a first-year coach, Barrett feels as if he is right back to his first year with the ongoing complications of COVID-19.

"Now that we got all of those things figured out, we are now on to our new struggles with COVID-19



MADI NOLTE | FILE

Maryville wrestling coach Dallas Barrett congratulates freshman Maven Vette after winning his match Jan. 16 in a Missourian file photo. Barrett is entering his second season as head coach this winter.

and everything that it changes with this season," Barrett said. "It almost feels like my first year again."

With that first year behind him, Barrett is excited to move into his second season and is glad to have gained that experience.

"It was a great experience,"

Barrett said. "I mean, just kind of the feeling of getting back into the sport. It's a whole different experience when it's kids instead of being for yourself."

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
[NWMISSOURINEWS.COM](http://NWMISSOURINEWS.COM)

## Girls set for success in Sundell's last year

CORBIN SMITH  
Columnist  
@curly\_cors



Maryville girls basketball is nearing the beginning of its season, and coach Quentin Albrecht is ready for his team to end this season on a better note than last season.

With a schedule that Albrecht says should challenge the girls, and the dangers of COVID-19 looming, there's no telling how this season could go.

Returning four of their starting five, the 'Hounds will have no trouble establishing chemistry and improving on the few weaknesses from last season. If

the season stays out of the grasp of the virus' effects, the Spoof-hounds should be able to put together a solid season.

Let's start with the obvious: Serena Sundell. The senior guard has proven numerous times over her illustrious high school career that she's the go-to player on the basketball court. Her prolific scoring and natural ability to lead are only two weapons in her seemingly vast arsenal. Since committing to play basketball at Kansas State in late March, she should feel no pressure to play for college recruiters.

I expect this to lessen the weight of having to put on a show each time she laces her shoes.

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# GEAR UP & GET READY

# IT'S GAME TIME

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Nov. 19, 2020 | @NWMSports

## Grade check

NCAA, MIAA deal with testing recommendations for winter  
see A9

## Staying on track

Northwest runner excited for spring after successful season  
see A8

# 'Hounds hit road eyeing semifinals

CALVIN SILVERS  
Sports Reporter I @CalvinSilvers

Maryville football competed in the Class 3 District 8 tournament, which began Oct. 30, looking to capture its eighth district championship in nine years.

The opponent standing in the Spoofhounds' way was the No. 1-seeded Richmond Spartans (8-2) Nov. 13 in Richmond, Missouri. Maryville (9-3) found its running game early and kept Spartan quarterback Keyshaun Elliot at bay, eventually winning 46-14.

"We're very excited to advance in the playoffs, get to the round of eight and get to the state quarterfinals," coach Matt Webb said about the district championship win. "It's a special time of year. Football is a lot of fun, and this is why you play all those games and practice all those practices. It's very special for those guys to remember."

The end of district play brings forth a new challenge for the Spoofhounds, and that challenge is the Class 3 state tournament. After the Odessa Bulldogs, the defending state champions, forfeited their Class 3 District 7 championship game due to COVID-19, the Summit Christian Academy Eagles (9-3) are set to battle the 'Hounds Nov. 21 in Lee Summit.

"All chips are in, everybody is invested to make it as far as possible," senior running back Connor Weiss said. "It's exciting to get to have the opportunity to play on Saturdays because they're extremely special."

Coming out of Class 3 District 7 as the No. 3 seed, the Eagles bypassed the No. 6 seed, Pleasant Hill (2-8), by a score of 42-30 and the No. 2 seed, Oak Grove (6-2), 35-0.

The Eagles use a spread offense that uses a wide variety of play calls and athletes. The offense is led by senior quarterback Grayson Sprouse, who stands at 6 feet, 4 inches tall and weighs 215 pounds.

"He's big, and he's very experienced. You don't rattle him, and he doesn't ever look confused on coverage of alignments," Webb said.



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN  
Spoofhounds running back Trey Houchin runs with the ball during their game against the Cameron High School Dragons Nov. 6. The 'Hounds led with the first touchdown at the end of the first quarter and won with a score of 41-13.

# 214-78

Maryville has outscored its opponents 214-78 since the Spoofhounds' Oct. 9 loss to Odessa. Maryville has won six consecutive games.

"You can tell they're very diverse from the spread offense attack."

On the season, Sprouse has completed 148 of 259 passes for 2,130 yards passing and 21 touchdowns. On the ground, Sprouse has run the ball 148 times for 530 yards for 17 touchdowns.

"It'll be very important for our defensive line to be disruptive," Webb said. "Anytime you can get in the backfield and make plays, it'll be very important."

Since Week 1, the Eagles haven't scored less than 28 points. On average, Summit Christian scores 34 points a game, and has scored more than 40 points in four games.

"We have to give everything we've got on every play and focus on stopping everything Sprouse brings to the table," Weiss said. "We have to watch everything their skill guys bring as well. As long as we're all doing our part every snap, we're going to have a fun game."

On the defensive side of the ball, the Eagles make it hard for opponents to find the end zone. Summit Christian allows an average of 14 points per game, and Maryville will look for its running game to be superb once again.

In the past two weeks, Maryville has had two running backs score three rushing touchdowns. Weiss tallied his hat trick against Cameron on Nov. 6, and senior Trey Houchin scored his three against Richmond.

"We got a really good identity now, and our kids are playing with a lot of confidence, as they should," Webb said. "We need to go out and execute."

The running identity has grown as the season has progressed, and that's the main focus in the Spoofhounds' backfield.

"As long as we're able to run the ball the way we have been

## UP NEXT

MHS @ Summit Christian  
1 p.m. Nov. 21  
Lee's Summit, Missouri

able to these past weeks, we will be just fine," Weiss said. "We're not going to worry about them, only ourselves and what we can control, and that's playing Spoofhound football."

The state quarterfinal matchup will be the first meeting between the two teams. With a lot of unknowns heading into the game, Webb is focused on the preparation.

"It's the playoffs, so you're going to see teams you don't see all year. The challenge is to have a good week of practice and continue to do what we're doing," Webb said. "It's a special time to play on Saturdays; high school football kids don't get to play on Saturdays until you reach the state quarterfinals in Missouri. Saturdays are for the big boys, so it doesn't matter who you play, it's show up and survive and advance."

This will be the ninth game on the road for the Spoofhounds, where they have a record of 5-3. At home, the Eagles are 5-1.

"The message is survive and advance. We play this game on the road; we're the visitor team. You go in, and you got to take it from somebody," Webb said. "Nothing's changed."

Maryville carries a six-game win streak into the matchup, one that started Oct. 9 against Lincoln College Prep. Since then, Maryville has outscored its opponents 214-78. The Spoofhounds have run the table since beating the Tigers. They're hoping to have a seat at it next week, too.

"We got a great group of kids who love each other and love playing together, they have a lot of fun. You combine those things and they trust each other," Webb said. "We got a group that really trusts one another and we're a tight knit team. We're excited to be playing in the state quarterfinals."

# SEASON'S GREETINGS



GRACE ELROD | NW MISSOURIAN  
Northwest men's basketball finishes up warmups and moves on to drills at practice Nov. 11 in Bearcat Arena. The men's first game will be Nov. 21 against Rogers State in Claremore, Oklahoma.

# Men start season late after positive tests from 'Hawks

JON WALKER  
Sports Editor I @JonWalker



coach Ben McCollum said. "I think that in order to kind of get things moving again, there's a level of precaution that has to go into it, and there's also a level of fight for your season and just trying to give a kid a good college experience."

The RiverHawks weren't required to test prior to the MIAA's agreement to test every Monday of basketball season, yet they did. It perhaps saved the further spread of cases throughout the program and Northwest.

The game has since been rescheduled for Dec. 31, a holiday both programs were willing to give up in order to play.

"It was eye-opening, I'll say that, just because Northeastern State did

## UP NEXT

NW @ Rogers State  
3:30 p.m. Nov. 21  
Claremore, Oklahoma

some testing last week — which they didn't have to do, but appreciative that they did," Northwest Director of Athletics Andy Peterson said. "It really kind of showed us — it was difficult to get that game scheduled on the 31st, just to try to stay away from other games and travel partners, the whole conundrum."

SEE POSTPONED | A7

## Women hope for hot start with pair of games on road

CALVIN SILVERS  
Sports Reporter I @CalvinSilvers



After months of anticipation, Northwest women's basketball will take the court for the first time in the 2020-21 season, diving into the 22-game season Nov. 19 against Northeastern State in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

Bearcat senior guard Mallory McConkey, along with the rest of the team, is exhilarated to lace up her shoes and begin conference play.

"I think we're all just excited to play. You know, we've never had a season where there's a chance you might not have a game," McConkey said. "Every single week we're just grateful for the opportunity to play, and we're all just ready to go."

The RiverHawks run a motion offense, an offensive scheme Northwest coach Austin Meyer has the women practicing against in preparation for the matchup.

"It's a team you just have to be ready for. Motion is one of those things that you can go over in the scouting report and prepare for it to a certain extent, but you just have to find different tendencies," Meyer said. "It's completely random, and it's a lot of movements, a lot of screens. Communication is going to be big and being focused the entire possession defensively."

In last year's matchup, the Bearcats fell behind early in the first quarter, but a strong second and fourth quarter led the way to a 62-40 victory.

The RiverHawks return their two top scorers from a year ago in

## UP NEXT

NW @ Northeastern State  
6 p.m. Nov. 19  
Tahlequah, Oklahoma

seniors Cenia Hayes and Shae Sanchez. Hayes recorded 14.7 points per game, and Sanchez averaged 11.2 points per game.

"Hayes and Sanchez can shoot the ball from deep and shoot in transition," Meyer said. "They play pretty fast and get out in transition. They do a good job with their motion and dribble-drive stuff as well."

While Sanchez led the RiverHawks in scoring against Northwest a year ago with 12 points, Northwest's defense held the 'Hawks to 32.7% shooting from the field. The Bearcats cleaned the glass as well, out-rebounding the RiverHawks 33-26.

This year, the RiverHawks received 37 total points in the Pre-season MIAA Coaches Poll, resulting in a projected 12th-place finish.

A key factor to watch in this game is Bearcat senior guard Jaelyn Haggard. Sitting at 990 career points, Haggard has the chance to become the 27th Bearcat women's basketball player to reach the 1,000 point milestone.

"It's exciting. It's just one of those milestones that you don't really try for until it's there," Haggard said. "I'm trying not to think about it — you know, no pressure — just going out and playing, and let what happens, happen."

SEE BEARCATS | A7